

Parish News • October 22, 2021

Members and Friends of Ely United Methodist Church,

Greetings from Pastor Craig!

Several times each day I spend a long moment day gazing out the large, north-facing window in my kitchen. It overlooks a twenty-foot swatch of lawn that includes a ten-foot mountain ash tree. The woods, which start on the north side of the lawn fall steeply down a hill that is in a bowl bounded on the east and west by 3rd Avenue East and Central Avenue, and Beacon Hill and the homes off Boundary Street on the south and north.

All year round there's always something to see on a small patch of the natural world, even this summer during the extreme drought, when flickers poked and foraged through the parched and brown lawn for insects.

Then, just in time plentiful rains came so that the yellow leaves, which are falling now from the birch and poplar trees land on brilliant green grass.

It's a beautiful sight to behold, almost like a quilt, the way the leaves spread and space themselves out in a pattern on the ground. When they first started to fall, few in number, they seemed to land equidistant from each other. How interesting! The same has happened ever since as the number of leaves on the carpet of green has slowly grown. It's as if by some unspoken agreement they independently choose their respective final destinations like an artist painting an autumn landscape.

Now I'm sure scientists can account for this distribution by means of some mathematical formula or probability theory. Such efforts are important in helping to understand our natural world. However, this autumn, it's only poetry and wonder that are in my heart and on my mind as I look out my window. This is so incredibly beautiful. Thanks be to God for this planet on which we stand!

Or as the Psalmist reminds us these two verses from Psalm 104, a Psalm that rejoices in God as our Creator and Provider

²⁴ O LORD, how manifold are your works!

In wisdom you have made them all;
the earth is full of your creatures.

²⁵ Yonder is the sea, great and wide,
creeping things innumerable are there,
living things both small and great.

Item #1: November 7, two weeks from this Sunday, the worship service will be one of memory, thanksgiving, and celebration. The Sunday is known as All Saints' Day on the Christian calendar. We will:

- Recognize memorial gifts received and who they were given in memory of between July 2019 and the present, with the ringing of our church bell.
- Read a list of people who have been members of Ely United Methodist Church for 60 plus years, 50 plus years, and 40 plus years.
- Offer people attending worship in-person or online an opportunity to write the name(s) of loved ones who have died since July 2019 on slips of paper provided. Ushers will bring these names forward to be read as part of the Great Thanksgiving in our Communion Service.
- We'll take Holy Communion together.

Please join us online or in-person for this joyous Sunday if you're able.

Item #2: Our Administrative Council met on Wednesday to consider a wide range of agenda items, including an update on pasties. Watch for the minutes, which will be part of *Parish News* in the next week or so.

Item #3: Several of our committees have been or will begin meeting in advance of our annual meeting, our Church Conference that will be held Wednesday, December 15 at 6:30 p.m.

The Nominating Committee will meet Sunday, October 24th following worship in the upstairs lounge. Nominating Committee members are Linda Hane, Patty Rusco, Tricia Scheffler, Laverne Lindholm, Pat Olson, Tootsie Loe, Donna Rusco, Cathy Aldrich, and Paula Mattila.

Speaking of committees, our Worship Committee will meet on Monday, October 25th. We'll be finalizing details for our Dedication of Memorials/All Saint's service on Sunday, November 7th and making preliminary plans for decorating the church for Advent/Christmas and for our Christmas Eve service. They are just around the corner, after all.....

Item #4: As we prepare for winter, contact Marge Olson if you're able to sign up for one or more months of shoveling snow.

Item #5: This week's Prayer Wall is attached or included.

This week one of the Scripture readings on Sunday morning will be the last chapter of the book of Job in the Old Testament. We've read from the book of Job the last two Sundays without much comment, but on Sunday the sermon will look at these timeless words.

I've listed the first six verses here. They are Job's answer to God after God reminds Job of our human inability to comprehend the vastness of the universe and of our place in it. We'll also read on Sunday the final ten verses that tie up loose ends to the story with what happens to Job's three friends and Job himself.

There are no easy or pat answers here to suffering or to other puzzles in life. There is, however wisdom for how to live amidst ambiguity and adversity in a world, which we believe is charged with the grandeur of God who is steadfast in His love for us.

42 Then Job answered the LORD and said:

² "I know that you can do all things,
and that no purpose of yours can be thwarted.
³ 'Who is this that hides counsel without knowledge?'
Therefore I have uttered what I did not understand,
things too wonderful for me, which I did not know.
⁴ 'Hear, and I will speak;
I will question you, and you make it known to me.'
⁵ I had heard of you by the hearing of the ear,
but now my eye sees you;
⁶ therefore I despise myself,
and repent^[a] in dust and ashes."

God's blessings be with you and your family,

Pastor Craig

The Ely United Methodist Church

Prayer Wall

October 22, 2021

This is a guide for prayer this week. The *Prayer Wall* is a reminder of those needing prayers during devotional times. Thank you for dedicating some of your personal prayer time to lift up these requests.

John 15: 7 (NIV)



Jesus said, "If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you."

We lift up the following in prayer...

- **Susan Burland's family & friends** – Sheila Shultz's sister, Susan, has passed away. Pray for comfort to family & friends.
- **Danielle** – Suzette Tedrick's cousin, Danielle, is hospitalized with COVID. Pray for a quick and full recovery.
- **Kurt Klein** – Kurt is the son of Linda Hane's good friend, Linda Tikkala, and is undergoing cancer chemo treatments.
- **Ollie** – Bonnie Berglund's great nephew was born missing 2 arteries to his heart. Pray for him & his parents, Alex & Derek.
- **Cheri Ann** – Lee Tessier's sister is having knee surgery this week, pray for comfort and healing.
- **Tootsie Loe** – Pray for her strength and comfort as she has discontinued further treatments.
- **Diane** – Carol Linneman's friend undergoing strenuous cancer treatments for a type of cancer that can not be cured, but can be limited. Pray for successful treatments in limiting the cancer.
- **Mike Haney** – After shrinking, his brain tumor is now growing again. Pray for new successful treatments.
- **Linda Gass's mother, Pat** – Fell and broke her hip & is having surgery. Pray for comfort and healing healing.
- **Bob & Vicki Beech** – Prayers to not be overwhelmed by the many changes in their lives during the past few years.
- **Linda Williams** – Linda is starting a new experimental drug treatment since her current liver/kidney cancer treatments are not working. Pray for effectiveness and no side effects.
- **Duane Johnson** – Dan's youngest brother is having quadruple bypass surgery this week. **Update:** Duane's bypass surgery went well , he receiving 5 bypasses. Pray for comfort and healing.
- **Dale** – Jer Niskala's friend who contracted Covid last year and still has symptoms including requiring Oxygen.
- **All the Fire Fighters and their families fighting forest fires in Ely and elsewhere**
- **All essential health care workers exposed to the COVID-19 virus and the Delta variant**

We include all the United Methodist Churches and Pastors, both active and retired, in our MN UMC Annual Conference as we work in extraordinary ways to keep our congregations and communities free from infection by the COVID-19 virus.

Prayer requests are compiled from our church prayer chain, from our Sunday morning church congregation using the prayer request forms located in the pew welcome pads, and the North Star District Prayer List. Prayer requests will remain on the Prayer Wall through four weeks unless removed earlier because the prayer is known to be no longer necessary. People may ask that prayers be renewed on the list for subsequent 4-week periods. The Prayer Wall is finalized each Thursday for the Sunday morning service.

Ely United Methodist Church

The Little Church with a Big Heart
Worshipping God and Serving the
Ely Community since 1892

October 24, 2021
Craig Haberman, Pastor

22nd Sunday after Pentecost
Sharon Luthens, Pianist

Welcome
Prelude

Pastor Craig
Sharon Luthens

***Hymns** #174 His Name is Wonderful
 #367 He Touched Me

***Opening Prayer**

Almighty and everlasting God, increase in us the gifts of faith, hope, and love; and, that we may obtain what you promise, make us love what you command; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Greetings

Announcements

Sharing of Birthdays and Anniversaries

Children's Time

Old Testament Reading Job 42:1-6, 10-17
Epistle Reading Mark 10:46-52

Scott Meland, Liturgist

***Hymn** #369 Blessed Assurance, Jesus is Mine

Sermon

***Hymn** #377 It is Well with My Soul

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

Offertory

***Doxology**

***Hymn** #354 I Surrender All

***Ringing of the Bell**

***Benediction**

***Choral Benediction**

Postlude

Coming Up

Sunday, Oct. 24 11:15 Nominating Committee Meets

Nominating Committee members are: Linda Hane, Patty Rusco, Tricia Scheffler, LaVerne Lindholm, Pat Olson, Tootsie Loe, Donna Rusco, Cathy Aldrich, and Paula Mattila.

Monday, October 25 4:30 Worship Committee Meeting

Wed, October 27 2:00 Zoom Bible Study

 7:00 Confirmation Class Meets

Thurs, October 28 6:00 Choir Practice

There are openings on the Usher sign-up list on the bulletin board in the back of the church.